

REMARKS

The Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bolourchi et al., U.S. Patent Application 2002/010013 ("Bolourchi"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 through 20 require the transmission of a plurality of control and signaling information between a base station and one or more mobile stations by modifying one or more prescribed fields in an existing control channel to carry the plurality of control and signaling information directly between the base station and at least one mobile station. Such a transmission is referred to as "express signaling." In contrast, Bolourchi does not disclose or suggest the transmission of a plurality of control and signaling information to a base station and one or more mobile stations, among other things, as in the claims of the present invention. Rather, Bolourchi only discloses the transfer of a mobile station identification (ID) between a node and user equipment (UE). Bolourchi does not disclose or suggest the transmission of a plurality of control and signaling information because Bolourchi is not aimed at solving the same problem as the present invention.

The present invention solves problems related to the use of an intermediate base station controller to relay signaling information from a base station to a mobile station. Bolourchi is not concerned with solving this

problem. Instead, Bolourchi is concerned with conserving bandwidth by reducing the number of times UE IDs must be transmitted between a base station and mobile stations.

In addition, Applicants note that with respect to claim 12, Bolourchi does not disclose or suggest a routing information identifier which comprises an explicit set of bits transmitted in a frame of an existing control channel. Instead, Bolourchi relies solely on the use of a CRC code to transfer a UE ID.

Further, with respect to claim 18, Bolourchi does not disclose or suggest the transmission of routing information which is derived via a logical, exclusive OR operation performed on an explicit set of bits and a CRC code.

Accordingly, because Bolourchi does not disclose each and every element of claims 1-10 and 12-20, it cannot anticipate these claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-20.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolourchi in view of Willenegger, U.S. Patent Application 2002/0110181 ("Willenegger"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

As the Office Action indicates, Bolourchi does not disclose or suggest the transmission of an identifier which indicates an available Walsh space, as in

claim 11. To make up for this deficiency, the Examiner relies on Willenegger. Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is dependent on claim 1 and is therefore patentable over Bolourchi, taken separately or in combination with Willenegger, for at least the reasons cited before.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Bolourchi and Willenegger does not render obvious claim 11 of the present invention because neither Bolourchi nor Willenegger, taken separately or in combination, suggests the inclusion of an identifier which indicates an available Walsh space in an existing control channel along with a plurality of other control and signaling information that is transmitted directly between a base station and one or more mobile stations, as in claim 11 of the present invention.

Instead, Bolourchi only appears to disclose the sending of a mobile station ID between a base station and a mobile station, while Willenegger discloses the conventional transmission of a Walsh function over a shared channel. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection and allowance of claim 11.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

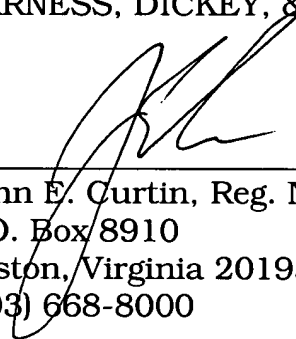
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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